access the look-up table to determine an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and use the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and dynamically convert data between the associated calls, and the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live conversation even though one person is on the Internet and the other is on a COST network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) The bridge unit of claim 1 wherein the specific data from the incoming call is coded in a portion of an IP address associated with the incoming call.

5. (Previously Amended) The bridge unit of claim 1 wherein the control routines receive an incoming IPNT call from a caller, and negotiate with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number to use to place a COST call associated with the incoming IPNT call from the caller.

6. (Previously Amended) The bridge unit of claim 5 wherein the bridge unit further comprises an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) unit, and wherein the IVR unit negotiates with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number for a call to be associated with the incoming IPNT call.

7. (Previously Amended) A method for converting telephony calls between Connection Oriented/Switched Telephony (COST) calls and Internet Protocol Telephony Network (IPNT) calls, comprising steps of:

(a) connecting a COST trunk line to a trunk-line port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing Dedicated Connection Telephony (COST) telephone calls on a COST network, the trunk line port and associated circuitry in a computerized telephony bridge unit;

(b) connecting an Internet line to a data network port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing IPNT calls on the Internet, the data network port and associated circuitry also in the computerized telephony bridge unit;

(c) receiving a first call from one of the COST network and the Internet;

(d) extracting specific data from the incoming call on one network, either COST or IPNT;

using the extracted data to access a digitally-stored lookup table and to retrieve from the table a COST telephone number or an IP address on the network other than the network upon which the incoming call was received;

(e) placing a second call associated with the first call on the network other than the network on which the first call is received using the retrieved telephone number or IP address; and

(f) dynamically converting data between the two associated calls, thereby providing a continuing and dynamic telephony connection, enabling live conversation between a user on a COST telephone connected to the COST network and a user on an IPNT terminal connected to the Internet.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the step for retrieving specific data the data is retrieved from a portion of an IP address of the incoming call.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising a step for receiving an incoming IPNT call from a caller, and negotiating with the caller to ascertain a COST telephone number for placing a call to be associated with the incoming IPNT call from the caller.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein negotiation with the caller is conducted by an Interactive Voice Response unit in the computerized telephony bridge unit.

13. (Previously Amended) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

a first port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on a connection-oriented/switched telephony (COST) network, including circuitry for generating data according to a protocol compatible with the COST network;

a second port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on an Internet network in which internet Protocol Network Telephony (IPNT) calls may be processed, including circuitry for generating data according to a protocol compatible with the Internet;

conversion circuitry for converting data dynamically between the COST network protocol and the Internet protocol and

a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses;

characterized in that control routines functioning as part of the bridge unit receive a first incoming call from either the COST network or the Internet, extract specific data encoded into the incoming call, either COST or IPNT, and use the extracted data to access the look-up table to determine an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and use the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the received call on the network other than the network on which the call is received, and dynamically convert data between the associated calls, and the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live conversation even though one person is on the Internet and the other is on a COST network.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Amended) The bridge unit of claim 13 wherein the network associated with the first port is a publicly switched telephony network (PSTN) and the network associated with the second port is the Internet.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) A computerized telephony bridge unit, comprising:

a first port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on an Internet network protocol or non-Internet network protocol, including circuitry for generating data according to protocols compatible with an Internet network or non-Internet network;

a second port and associated circuitry for receiving and placing calls on an Internet network protocol or non-Internet network protocol, including circuitry for generating data according to protocols compatible with an Internet network or non-Internet network;

a digitally-stored look-up table relating COST telephone numbers to IP addresses; and

conversion circuitry for converting data dynamically between ones of like networks protocols of the first and second ports;

characterized in that control routines functioning as part of the bridge unit receive a first incoming call from either the Internet or non-Internet protocol network, extract specific data encoded into the incoming call, either COST or IPNT, and use the extracted data to access the look-up table to determine an associated COST telephone number or IP address, and use the associated COST telephone number or IP address to place a call associated with the received call on the same network protocol on which the call is received, and dynamically convert data between the associated calls, and the dynamic conversion of data enables two people to engage in a live conversation even though each person is on the same call network protocol having dissimilar data protocols.